COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Balance of Payments Deficit Won't Cut Overseas Tours

U.S. officials believe the current deficit in this country's balance of payments—the so-called "Gold Drain"—will not cause any cut-back of overseas tours accompanied by dependents.

Even though the deficit has climbed by nearly a half billion dollars, they point out the men of the armed forces should not be penalized because of the balance of payments.

They also express optimism that current legislation such as the "Uniformed Services Savings Deposits" and other new measures will redress the adverse balance.

The new program (Commanders Digest Aug. 3) is tailored for overseas deposits, makes officers eligible to participate, and contains provisions for an attractive interest rate that could go as high as 10 percent.

The overseas banking plan was signed into law by President Johnson Aug. 14.

The bill authorizes the President to set his own interest rate and change it when necessary. The only stipulation is that the interest rate may not exceed 10 percent.

Defense Secretary's Message For Armed Forces Voters Day

Casting a ballot at election time is the duty and privilege of every free American. In the coming general elections, therefore, I urge all eligible members of the Armed Forces to vote for the candidates of their choice.

Most of you, however, must send for absentee ballots, so I strongly recommend that you mail a Federal Post Card Application to your local election officials without delay, certainly no later than Armed Forces Voters Day on September 28th. It is the responsibility of your commanding officer to see to it that you are given a Post Card.

When your ballot arrives, and you mark it with care and return it promptly, you will have the satisfaction of having done your duty as a good citizen, and of directly supporting our precious heritage of freely elected government.

s/ Robert S. McNamara

FLOOD RESCUE AWARD—Capt. James A. Darden Jr., USAF, (left) and Capt. Robert S. Henderson, USAF, (right) accept the 1965 Cheney Award from Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell.

Two Helicopter Pilots Get AF's Cheney Award

Two U.S. Air Force Captains—Robert S. Henderson and James A. Darden Jr.—received the Cheney Award for their daring helicopter rescue work during a northern Italian flood in September 1965.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell, noting that 37 persons owed their lives to the pair, added that "in these days, such acts take on added significance when they involve foreign nationals."

Sen. William J. Fulbright (D-Ark) and Italy's Air Attache Brig. Gen. Giorgio Pocek were among the many officials and generals attending the ceremony in Gen. McConnell's office.

Navy Lets Contract for Phantom IIs

Navy has let a $439-million contract to McDonnell Aircraft Corp., St. Louis, Mo., for procurement of several hundred Phantom II aircraft for the Navy and Air Force.

The fixed price incentive contract is for F-4B, F-4D, F-4J, F-4E and RF-4C aircraft.

Besides the Navy and Air Force, Marine Corps units are flying Phantom II aircraft in Republic of Vietnam operations.

Washington Memos

PRESIDENT'S SAFETY AWARD for 1965 is boiling down to three leading contenders. Air Force is among the "Big Three' for reducing fatalities from private motor vehicle accidents by 19 percent during 1965. Decrease is attributed in part to training officers and key civilians in three week short courses at Northwestern University's Traffic Institute.

THREE NAVY AND two Air Force pilots who participated in strikes against POL targets near Hanoi and Haiphong received medals from Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, USA, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff. Lt. Col. James A. Young, Cdr. Albert J. Monger and Cdr. Carl Birdwell Jr., received Silver Stars. Distinguished Flying Crosses were presented to Lcdr. Walter L. Chatham and Capt. Donald J. Mattasolio.

DOD CASUALTY FIGURES show 4,640 U.S. military personnel have died as result of hostile actions in Vietnam from Jan. 1, 1961, through Aug. 6, 1966. Non-hostile actions claimed lives of 994.

NAVAL TACTICAL DATA SYSTEM is being installed aboard attack carrier USS Forrestal. Most functions of multi-million dollar computer and associated equipment that make up NTDS are classified, but system is expected to free many men in carrier's Combat Information Center from routine of tracking, plotting and basic figuring.

A PASSENGER RECORD was set at Travis AFB, Calif., in July when 100,000 people were processed, establishing an all-time high for a military installation. Last fiscal year, 845,635 passengers passed through the Military Airlift Command passenger terminal enroute to or from areas in the Pacific.

ARMY PROMOTION REGULATION AR 624-100 for active duty commissioned and warrant officers in the July 29 revision incorporates 13 changes or additions. Introduced are definition of "non-promotable status" and procedures for posthumous promotion. Also included are instructions to all selection boards.

CAPE KENNEDY SPACE museum opens to public this month. Development of U.S. space exploration will be featured as well as collection of weapons systems and launch vehicles. Museum is being completed in three phases. Opening this month are drive-through tours. Walk-around tours are expected to begin in January 1967 and final phase, opening of a blockhouse and its exhibits to tours, is scheduled for August 1967.

NAVY HAS OBTAINED 25,000 mail order catalogs which are slated for sea duty in time for 1966 Christmas rush. Navy Ship's Store officials say mail order books not only make gift-buying convenient but also help to lessen this country's gold flow.

U.S. ARMY AIR ambulances are currently logging some 5,000 missions monthly, rushing wounded to medical attention in Vietnam. Army medical authorities continue to credit speedy evacuation as primarily responsible for maintaining history's lowest fatality rate for wounded—less than one percent.

AIR FORCE OFFICER Training School at Lackland AFB, Tex., has graduated its 20,000th second lieutenant since school opened in July 1959. Selected college graduates are enrolled in 12-week school. OTS was originally geared to graduate 600 officers annually, but officials said production has increased steadily.

BASE HOSPITAL AT Offutt AFB, Neb., has been named "Ehrling Bergquist USAF Hospital" in honor of Strategic Air Command's first surgeon. Wife and son of late Colonel Bergquist attended dedication and presented photograph of colonel to hospital. New hospital commander is Col. George C. Jernigan Jr. Maj. Gen. K. E. Pletcher is SAC surgeon.

STUDENT PILOT CERTIFICATION being streamlined by Federal Aviation Agency proposal. One rule change would drop parental consent requirements for minors. Another would combine medical and Student Pilot certification to wind up with what FAA calls, "a one-step, one-application form process."

SCHILLING'S "WAITING WIVES" —for husbands serving in Vietnam— occupy 375 sets of quarters in 735 unit housing complex at the former Schilling AFB, Kansas, now under Army management. Another 150 families have accepted quarters and are enroute. Army says that about 70 percent of wives are foreign born and have available important features of military post living, including commissary, post exchange, dispensary and a community service program.

AVIATION EXTENSION COURSES, formerly administered by Army Artillery and Missile School at Ft. Sill, Okla., now being prepared and administered by U.S. Army Aviation School at Fort Rucker, Ala. Hq. USCONARC granted authority and DA Pamphlet 350-60 lists extension courses available.

ABOUT 700,000 AMERICANS will pass through U.S. Army's training system during FY 67, according to Headquarters, U.S. Continental Army Command. Total represents more than 130 percent increase over same period two years ago.

AIR FORCE COMBAT crews flew more than 1,800 strike missions against North Vietnamese targets in July, destroying or damaging trucks, bridges, petroleum, oil and lubricant storage areas. July also marked beginning of use of forward air controllers to find military targets in lower portion of Southern panhandle.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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President Johnson Receives 8th Armored Div. Peace Award

President Johnson accepted the Eighth Armored Division Association's Annual Peace Award emphasizing, "We have no greater ambition than to be a partner to all those throughout the world who aspire for a better way of life."

Accepting the award at a White House ceremony, the President said, "I hope that some day the leaders in Hanoi and Peking will understand that desire. Let us tell them again—here and now: So long as aggression continues in South Vietnam, we will turn it back."

The award was presented to President Johnson "as the American who, during the past year, has contributed the most toward the cause of Peace."

The President noted that members of the Association have been tempered by the flames of war, "So to them, peace has a very special meaning."

Referring to American servicemen fighting and dying in Vietnam, President Johnson said, " You recognize that those brave men are not instruments of war, but guardians of peace."

Army Launches Intensive Officer Candidate Drive

Army is making a major effort to recruit more than 42,000 qualified persons to enter Officer Candidate School this fiscal year.

Commanders at all levels already have been told to make "intensive and sustained efforts" to locate qualified OCS candidates.

A recent DCSPER message to the field opened with this statement, "During FY67, the officer candidate schools will be the major source of junior officers for the Army."

The message also assigned minimum monthly objectives for commands, with an emphasis placed on "meet or exceed."

Meanwhile, another personnel message outlined these changes to AR 601-226 governing Officer Candidate School Options:

- Be at least 18 years of age and must not have passed his 27th birthday at time of enlistment;
- Waiver for maximum age up to 32 years and 6 months of age at time of enlistment may be granted in exceptional cases.

President Signs Gold Star Lapel Button Bill

President Johnson has signed into law a bill which permits the wearing of a gold star lapel button by the next-of-kin of servicemen who died (subsequent to June 30, 1958) as result of cold war incidents.

NEW STRATCOM CG—BG John E. Kelsey, USA, (left) new deputy chief of staff, communications and electronics, USAREUR, and Commanding General, STRATCOM Europe, discusses command activities with Maj. Gen. F. T. Pachler, USAREUR chief of staff.

DOD Testimony Says Vietnam Black Market Curtailed

Recent DOD congressional testimony on Post Exchange operations in Vietnam stressed that "black market activities, pilferage, and other corrupt practices were drastically curtailed."

A recent but not final inventory indicates "the loss during the past seven months of operation will be well within the 4 percent reserve against losses which was established last December."

The statement made before a House Government Operations Subcommittee attributed black market curtailment principally to the issue of watermarked ration cards, better merchandise control and greater dockside and warehouse security.

Air Force Reserve Squadrons Activated to Support MAC, AFLC

Twenty new Air Force Reserve Squadrons have been activated to support the Military Airlift Command and the Air Force Logistics Command.

"In event of mobilization, six of the units, called mobile enroute squadrons, will provide Military Airlift Command with maintenance and forward supply services and airlift command posts," a DOD announcement said.

Logistics Command gained seven mobile maintenance squadrons for "crash and battle-damage repair assistance in overseas areas during contingencies and limited war conditions."

Seven other mobile supply squadrons are designed to give specialized assistance to air bases during critical logistic buildup periods.

Joint Defense-AEC Exercise Planned

A joint Department of Defense—Atomic Energy Commission non-nuclear safeguard exercise, similar to one conducted in November, 1965, will be conducted by Joint Task Force Eight in the Pacific from mid-September through mid-October.

B-52 aircraft will drop instrumented test-simulators while other aircraft in the drop areas simulate gathering nuclear effects data. No nuclear weapons are involved in any part of the exercise.

Joint Task Force Eight, comprised of DOD and AEC personnel, is responsible for maintaining the nation's readiness to perform testing in the environments now prohibited by the limited nuclear test ban treaty.

The exercises are designed to help maintain facilities, resources and personnel proficiency in a state of readiness to begin promptly nuclear tests in the atmosphere, if ever required.

Air Force Contracts For Expendable Shelters

Air Force Systems Command (AFSC) has contracted for development of expendable shelters.

The shelters, to be developed for AFSC Research and Technology Division's Air Force Aero Propulsion Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, are scheduled for test and use by Tactical Air Command and by all Air Force Units when operating in field conditions.

Contract calls for new materials and structural concepts that can be used to develop lightweight, portable shelters which are economically expendable.

Two prototypes will be built, one measuring 16 by 32 feet, the other, 24 by 50 feet. The smaller shelter must not exceed 250 pounds total weight and the larger must not weigh more than 900 pounds. Cost of the smaller unit must not exceed $300 in lots of 2,000, and the larger unit not more than $1,000 in lots of 500.

ELECTION RESULT—RAdm. Harold G. Bowen Jr., USN, (left) Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Development) is congratulated by Capt. H. Meckel, German Navy, following his election as Chairman of NATO's Naval Advisory Group at NATO headquarters in Paris.

AF Flyers May Now 'Bank' Flying Hours

Flying hours exceeding the monthly requirement of four hours may now be banked for as long as five months and used later for pay purposes, an Air Force personnel message said.

Basic idea is to reduce flying at schools where courses can last as long as five months.

Air Force cited Executive Order No. 11157 as authority, saying implementing instructions and changes to AFM 177-105 and AFM 60-1 will be distributed as soon as available.

Army Electronics Command Works on Fog-Cutting Device

Blinding fog which has plagued land, sea and air travelers for years may eventually be readily seen through as the result of experiments being made at Ft. Monmouth, N.J. by scientists of Army Electronics Command.

The researchers are working on development of a simple, inexpensive system with a picture screen that military truck drivers and pilots of small aircraft could use in foggy weather to see 1,000 feet ahead.

CNO Aviation Safety Award Winners Named

Winners of the Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Awards for 1966 have been selected from among all aircraft squadrons in the Atlantic Fleet.

Naval Air Force headquarters in Norfolk, Va., announced the winning squadrons as: Patrol Squadron 10, NAS Brunswick, Me.; Reconnaissance Attack Squadron 7, Sanford Field, Fla.; Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 1, NAS Key West, Fla.; Fleet Composite Squadron 10, NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Attack Squadron 76 and Fighter Squadron 11, Cecil Field, Fla.

AF Screening Officers For FY68 Schooling

An Air Force Central Selection Board is screening approximately 4,982 line officers in the grades of major and captain for attendance at Intermediate Service Schools during FY68.

Meeting at Randolph AFB, Tex., the board will select 652 principals and 80 alternates to attend classes at the Armed Forces Staff College, Air Command and Staff College, and comparable level schools of the sister services and allied nations.

An additional 31 officers will be selected by the Chief of Chaplains, the Judge Advocate General and the Surgeon General.

DOD Joins International Conference on Aviation

Defense Department and four other federal agencies will represent the government at a Hot Springs, Ark., international conference Oct. 26-29 to consider new developments in supersonic air technology and executive type aircraft.

State Department, Commerce Department, the Federal Aviation Agency and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration are the other participating agencies.

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